Mr. David Mocatta then read a paper descriptive of a distillery, and its appurtenances, erected from his designs.

Mr. Mocatta said, that having felt how important it was to acquire knowledge on every point connected with professional practice, and the difficulties which frequently attended the acquisition, he was led to believe he was fulfilling one of the duties which devolved on him, as a member of this Institute, in contributing his mite to the general stock of information. He then described the various points requiring attention,—the furnace flues for stills, position of the worm-tub, ventilation, and general arrangement; and urged that architects should become acquainted with the working and details of the several manufactures of the country, and establish the opinion that they are the proper persons to be employed in the erection of fitting buildings for their purposes. This, it might be inferred, would tend to improve the character of what are now common-place brick and mortar edifices.

Mr. Horne made some general remarks on the consumption of smoke, in connection with Mr. Mocatta's paper. Relative to the system described by Mr. D'Anson, he thought it would be most dangerous for a church, as they would be made to breathe over again the worst part of vitiated air—the carbonic acid gas, which would be found on the floor. Heat without ventilation was bad.

Mr. Fowler, in urging the importance of consuming smoke, alluded to some chimneys at Holloway, which were formed larger at the top than the bottom,—like an inverted cone.

Mr. Donaldson complimented Mr. Mocatta on his paper, and said he was much pleased to see so practical a view of the subject taken by one who had already proved himself an artist. An architect who was rightly educated need never fear grappling with special or new subjects; he would find his knowledge of principles, and his general information, would carry him successfully through.

After a conversation on Moffat's drain-tile, the meeting was adjourned.

WHY REMOVE WESTMINSTER BRIDGE?

Sir,—The state of Westminster-bridge being such as to require another structure in its stead, the position of the new bridge becomes a subject of the utmost importance, not only to the public in general as passengers on the highway, but to others in particular, whose interests are of a fixed and local nature. The remarks quoted by you last week, and those which have appeared in The Builder, and other periodicals, as to the injury which must arise to existing interests, by the removal of the bridge far from its present site, seem just, and full of a proper feeling for the situation of the inhabitants on the Surrey side of the present bridge, who will most probably receive no equivalent for the very great injury which they must suffer, by the withdrawal of an immense traffic from the line of their shops and houses; and to the owners and tenants of the properties, many of whom may have paid large considerations in their purchases or leases, the loss will be all but ruinous in most cases.

The dilapidated state of the present bridge, how occasioned it is not my intention to inquire into (although one need not travel far for a cause), is doubtless a strong case why another should be built, rather than an attempt be made to repair it. But its too close neighbourhood to the new Houses of Parliament, has had much to do with the wish to remove the site so much to the northward; and without doubt the bridge and the Houses are too near each other, and one must give way; and upon the old maxim of the weakest going to the wall, it is clear that the poor old bridge must yield to its formidable, though younger neighbour.

It appears to me that, by a very slight removal to the north of the present bridge, a new site may be obtained which would reconcile many difficulties, which would not inflict injury and injustice on innocent parties, and which would still afford to the public that accommodation to which they have been accustomed. There is a very short street leading out of Parliament-street, called Derby-street, having on one side only two houses, and on the other side three houses; consequently, much money cannot be required to be expended in forming the approach. Cannon-street crosses Derby-street at right angles, but opposite the latter street is only a wharf, extending to the river.

I venture to suggest that a new bridge could be formed at this point, and to terminate on the Surrey side, very nearly, if not quite, where the present bridge ends, although, in fact, a clearance of ground a little to the northward would form a better line than the present. My object in selecting a line which would require but a small outlay for the approaches (always a most expensive item in such matters) is, besides the reasons already stated, that a large sum may be devoted to a purpose which is highly desirable, namely, to purchase and remove the entire block of houses in Bridge-street, forming the north side of New Palace Yard: thus a fine area would be obtained for the entrance to the new Houses of Parliament, which would also be seen to more advantage from the new bridge than can be expected to be the case from other positions. But to make a new bridge from the top of Whitehall, although it may save a trifling distance to passengers from Pall Mall, will be a serious inconvenience to persons proceeding from Pimlico into Surrey, and must of necessity require an enormous outlay for approaches, not only on the Westminster, but on the Surrey side of the river. Other and grave objections might be urged against the removal of the bridge far from its present site, and although it is one thing to make a new bridge where the increasing populousness of a locality on either side of a river seems to demand such a boon, it is quite another thing to deprive an established neighbourhood of the means of transit enjoyed by them for centuries, and which privilege they have done nothing to forfeit.

It has been long since proposed to carry a bridge across the river at Lambeth, where the horse ferry exists. This position nearly divides the distance equally between the bridges at Vauxhall and Westminster: and another bridge is talked of from Essex-street, in the Strand, crossing the Thames exactly half way between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges; nor will all these viaducts, new and old, be too many for the vast and increasing traffic in our streets. But it has been well observed, either in The Builder or in some other periodical, that the greatest relief to the pressure of the traffic would be by the abolition of the tolls on the bridges (of course by compensation); for actually at this moment there are only two free bridges open from Westminster to Whitechapel, the entire length of London. It must cease to be a wonder, therefore, that our streets are so crowded, and the communication so interrupted, especially when we take into account the state of blockade into which the leading thoroughfares are converted when under repair.—George Russell French.

18, Sussex-gardens, 12th December, 1846.

*** A public meeting to oppose the removal of the bridge has been held (Mr. Hawes, M.P., in the chair), when a series of resolutions to that effect were carried unanimously. Mr. Grissell stated, that he believed Mr. Barry was in favour of the present site.

NO ROYAL ROAD FOR PAINTERS.

A Captain Berkley, of Exeter, advertised that he had made a valuable discovery in the art of painting, and offered to teach it for 300*l*., and so enable any one in half a year to earn a fortune! A gentleman named Esmondson, sent his son to him, paid 150*l*., and gave a bill for 150*l*. more. The son soon found that the thing was useless, and left his instructor. The bill was not taken up, and an action was brought by Captain Berkley in consequence, which was decided last week in the Court of Queen's Bench. Artists shewed that what the pupil had learnt was valueless, and must be unlearnt; and that by the means professed, though a showy painting to please the vulgar might be produced, a good picture could not. The jury immediately gave a verdict for the defendant.

Bricks.—A parcel of 30,000 has arrived by a vessel from Hamburgh, and another of 40,000 by the Catalina, from Antwerp, both cargoes being destined for re-exportation.—*Liverpool Advertiser.*

FREEMASONS OF THE CHURCH.

Dec. 8.—Mr. French in the chair. Miss Mackenzie presented the following architectural flowers: Rose of Jericho, *manus Mariæ*, Anastatica *Hiero chuntina*, which was first heard of in England in 1597. A single flower, which Miss Mackenzie has had for five years (grown in Palestine), has never failed, on being held in water for half a minute, to expand itself into a star. The Latin monks call it *manus Mariæ*, in which they are supported by the Arabs. It was said to blossom at Christmas eve, to salute the birth of the Redeemer, and pay homage to his resorrection by remaining fully expanded till Easter, and that its revival from death was a type thereof!

Mr. Gauntlett, Mus. Doc., was elected professor of church music; Mr. Dobson and Mr. L. Blackburne were elected fellows; and Mr. Chambers and Mr. Thos. Clarke, associates.

Mr. Rogers exhibited one of the richly carved canopies from the great chimney-piece at Nonesuch Palace, said to have been executed from the designs of Hans Holbein.

Mr. E. B. Price read a paper on grotesque ecclesiastical sculptures; the example exhibited was by the kindness of Mr. Walter Hawkins, F.S.A. Mr. Price observed, that similar grotesque and satirical designs still exist in Westminster Abbey, such as the devil bearing away a monk upon his shoulders, and another in which a woman is seen beating a monk with her distaff. Had such burlesques upon the priesthood, of which so many examples might be adduced, originated with laymen, they would in themselves present nothing very remarkable, but that they should have existed in our cathedrals and churches has often been matter of surprise. The most rational conjecture, he thought, was, that they arose out of that spirit of hostility which prevailed so extensively between the regular clergy and the monks. They were mostly of a period when that hostility was at its height, and which shortly preceded the Reformation, a measure which happily put an end to such a state of warfare.

A paper was then read by Mr. A. J. Stothard, accompanied by drawings, shewing in what manner the plinth of the statue of the Duke of Wellington, at Hyde-park-corner, might be modified so as to accord with the arch upon which it stands with more propriety. A discussion took place upon the subject, but the majority of the members present were opposed to any modification, and desired its removal to a more eligible pedestal.

If being the anniversary of the Institution, the chairman delivered an address, reviewing the progress made in the several sciences upon which architecture depended, during the past year. The best thanks were voted by the society to the vice-presidents; the treasurer; Mr. Griffith, the honorary secretary, and the other officers, for their zealous exertions, and they were re-elected for the year ensuing.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The "Health of *London* Association"—whose main object is, first, "to instruct the people as to the evils which result from the present defective sewerage, drainage, ventilation, street-cleansing, and supply of water;—from interment in towns, and from other sources of injury to public health: and to show the beneficial influences which the removal of these evils would certainly exert on their physical and moral condition;" and

Secondly.—"To diffuse information as to the most efficient and economic means of carrying out the necessary remedial measures;"—have issued a series of queries with the view of obtaining a large amount of information, to be afterwards digested and issued in the shape of a report. They say truly in the circular accompanying the queries,—"An untimely death is the lot of nearly a hundred thousand of our population annually,—disease and sickness prostrate the strength and energies, and destroy the means of hundreds of thousands more,—pauperism is produced on an alarming scale,—vice and crime (entailing the expense of their suppression) are generated and fostered by,—and hereditary disease, and an impaired physical condition have become common afflictions of our people, from causes which are

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